

ions, including almonds, had their crops either killed entirely or very badly cut down. We also found that *Prunus mume* is apparently quite resistant to crown gall, seemingly wholly resistant to oak-root fungus, and last and most important of all, it appears to be resistant or entirely immune from the attacks of nematodes. The flowers of some varieties are quite attractive and very fragrant. We believe it possesses real value for stock purposes. However, it will be necessary to make a selection from the more vigorous types, as some of them would likely tend to dwarf the scions."

The Pejibaye

During the past three years, this office has received more than 25,000 seeds of the pejibaye palm (*Guilielma utilis* Oerst.) from Costa Rica. No plants were grown from the first shipments, the seeds having lost their viability before they reached Washington. Finally, through the courtesy of the United Fruit Company, a box of pejibaye fruits was sent from Port Limon. It was thought the seeds might carry better in this fashion than when cleaned and dried. On reaching New York, it was found that the fruits had fermented and were decidedly unsavory to smell and handle. Consequently, they were thrown into the bay by stevedores who assumed that they had been intended for eating, and that it was useless to forward them to their destination. A second shipment dispatched in the same fashion, with the addition of instructions to let them proceed to Washington, reached our hands, and nearly a thousand fine young plants have been grown from it. These are now in the greenhouses at Bell, Maryland.

The pejibaye has been described in Plant Immigrants (see No. 191, March, 1922, pp. 1734-35) and more fully in the Journal of Heredity for April, 1921. It is a tropical palm of ornamental appearance, which produces large racemes of top-shaped fruits, each the size of an apricot, bright orange-yellow in color, and having a single bony seed surrounded by a quantity of mealy pulp. This latter, when boiled, has the flavor and consistency of roasted chestnuts and is an excellent food. At the time of the Conquest, the Indians of Costa Rica subsisted almost exclusively upon pejibayes during a certain part of each year. The fruit has become a very popular article of diet among Costa Ricans of European blood, and fetches a high price in the markets of the capital. Farther south, in Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador, this palm or one very closely allied to it, is cultivated by many Indian tribes, and highly esteemed by them as an article of food. The renowned peach palm of the Amazon may also be this same species, though it is usually catalogued as *Guilielma speciosa*.